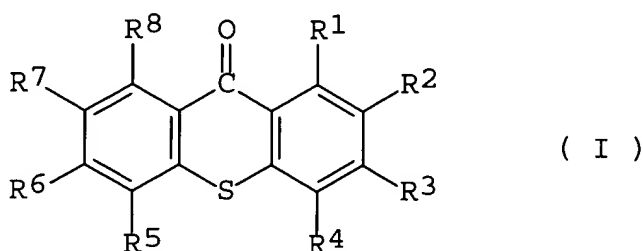


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMSListing of Currently Pending claims:

1. (previously presented) An article comprising a substrate comprising a silicon wafer and a positive resist composition comprising a novolac resin; an o-quinonediazide sulfonic acid ester of a compound having a phenolic hydroxyl group; and a thioxanthone compound represented by the following formula(I):



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ independently represent hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, carboxyl or alkoxycarbonyl.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein in the positive resist composition the amount of components of the novolac resin having a molecular weight of 1,000 or less is 25% or less based on the total amount of the novolac resin excluding

unreacted phenol compound, the amounts being represented by the pattern areas of gel permeation chromatography, wherein the pattern areas refer to values measured by an UV detector at 254 nm and the molecular weight refers to a value based on that of polystyrene as a standard.

7. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the positive resist composition which further comprises a low molecular weight alkali-soluble phenol compound in an amount within a range of 3 to 40% by weight based on the total amount of the novolac resin and the low molecular weight alkali-soluble phenol compound.

8. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein in the positive resist composition the thioxanthone compound of the formula (I) is selected from thioxanthone, 1-chlorothioxanthone, 2-chlorothioxanthone, 3-chlorothioxanthone, 4-chlorothioxanthone, 1-methylthioxanthone, 2-methylthioxanthone, 3-methylthioxanthone, 4-methylthioxanthone, 1-ethylthioxanthone, 2-ethylthioxanthone, 3-ethylthioxanthone, 4-ethylthioxanthone, 1-isopropylthioxanthone, 2-isopropylthioxanthone, 3-isopropylthioxanthone, 4-isopropylthioxanthone, methyl thioxanthone-1-carboxylate or methyl 7-methylthioxanthone-3-carboxylate.

9. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein in the positive resist composition the amount of the thioxanthone compound is from about 0.01 to about 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by total weight of the novolac resin and a low molecular weight alkali-soluble phenol compound.